

smarter, and stronger?—any list of answers that has any basis in evidence, fact, or logic will tell you, investing in education. We know investing in education increases the lifelong earnings of college graduates by \$600,000. Every year of postsecondary education will provide between 5 to 15 percent more in annual earnings. Yet here we are closing the door to college education, basically telling a lot of kids who depend on loans, depend on grants, depend upon increasing student debt: I am sorry; you are not in our plans for the future.

That is a terrible mistake for this country to make.

Mr. DODD. Will my colleague yield on that point?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. KENNEDY. I think we had an agreement that the Senator from Florida was yielded my time so he can make an important statement about the Buccaneers.

Mr. DODD. Who are the Buccaneers?

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, in the midst of these deadly serious subjects that we are talking about, I want to bring a little bit of levity and a bright spot from an extraordinary football game that has now caused the world champions to have the sun especially shining brightly in the State of Florida and, in particular, in the Tampa Bay region.

This resolution commends the Tampa Bay fans because they have been so faithful over the years. This is a miracle. It is a miracle that it has finally happened to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and, oh, do they deserve it—the most valuable player of the game, the best NFL defensive player, the best defensive record in the whole league, the quarterback himself being from Florida.

I could go on and on. But just to cap off my statement of offering a little lightheartedness to an otherwise very serious day is to point out that I went to the junior Senator from California, as the junior Senator from Florida, to say: Is it worth it to you before the game to have a little friendly wager?

We had a crate of Florida oranges versus a 25-pound box of California almonds. I said: Why don't you throw in a little Napa Valley chardonnay as well.

I am going to be enjoying that. Our staff will be enjoying it, for the sake of all of our people in Florida who have a big smile on their face.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time controlled by the Senator from Massachusetts has expired. The next 20 minutes will be controlled by the Senator from Vermont and the Senator from California.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I yield 5 minutes to the Senator from Connecticut.

EDUCATIONAL INVESTMENT

Mr. DODD. I want to address a question to our colleague from New York

and also my colleague from Vermont. What I am about to say is also something he has talked about in the past. We are often told we are now in a period of international crisis and that resources cannot really be allocated as much as we would like for education given these other demands.

Certainly my colleagues are aware, historically, some of the most significant investments we have made as a nation in terms of education have occurred right in the midst of some of our most significant crises as a country.

In 1787, shortly after the American Revolution, at a time when there was great demand for resources, we insisted that land be set aside in new territories, specifically the Federal Government did, for institutions of higher learning. Right in the middle of the Civil War, there was the Morrill Act, authored by a Senator from Vermont, that created the land grant colleges. Here we were in the greatest crisis in the history of the United States, and yet the Congress and the President in the midst of all of that believed we ought to be doing everything we could to establish land grant colleges.

Then, of course, prior to the end of World War II, the GI bill is another example. Here is a nation at war and demand for resources are great; our Nation is in peril, although it was toward the end of the war. Yet the Congress and the President thought it was so critically important that we allocated resources for furthering the advancement of higher education.

I don't know if my colleagues would like to briefly respond to that point.

Mrs. CLINTON. I would respond in support of the observations that the Senator from Connecticut has made. It is deeply troubling to me that in the current atmosphere in which we find ourselves, the first victim seems to be the future.

We are shortchanging the future and, in particular, we are shortchanging our children. I don't believe any previous generation of Americans, as the Senator has illustrated, has ever done this before. We are about to become the first generation that deliberately, intentionally, will leave our children worse off than we were.

I find that absolutely mind-boggling. I cannot even grasp it. We talk about our parents, the greatest generation, who sacrificed, who planned for the future, who made big investments in education, in highways, in research and development, in infrastructure, in health care, and here we are about to dismantle the work they so carefully put into place, starting with education but by no means ending there.

It is a moment of real concern and should be talked about, not just in this Chamber but throughout our country. What is it exactly we intend to leave our children besides a more dangerous world and a pile of debt?

Mr. DODD. I thank my colleague for her answer. She is absolutely correct.

It would be a unique and historic tragedy if we were the first generation to not fulfill its obligations to the coming generation.

I said the Homestead Act. It was the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 that was an example of a country in crisis that still found time to invest in its educational needs. I don't know if my colleague from Vermont wanted to comment on that as well. It was Senator Morrill from Vermont who created the land grant colleges. The University of Connecticut was one of the beneficiaries of that idea. Right in the middle of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln and the Congress said: We ought to be investing in the educational needs of the Nation, and authored that legislation. I know my colleague from Vermont has spoken eloquently for and fought for higher education. I thought he might want to comment on those decisions.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Vermont is proud of the fact that it has provided leadership throughout the centuries, and the Morrill Act did more for expanding the ability of education for our young people to strengthen this Nation than any other action that has been taken since.

I thank the Senator for bringing up the history, especially relative to my own State.

STATE OF THE UNION

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, as the President prepares to address the Nation, I hope he will remember that homeland security starts here at home, and that he addresses the critical domestic priorities facing our Nation at this time. Today, very briefly, I want to discuss a few of those priorities.

In last year's State of the Union Address, the President highlighted his and Congress's bipartisan efforts on education. He discussed how education was integral to having a secure Nation with a well-educated and trained workforce that would grow and strengthen our economy.

President Bush said:

Good jobs begin with good schools, and we've made a fine start.

But you cannot educate our children on the cheap, and I am afraid that is what the President is asking our Nation's educational system to do. Last year's Bush administration budget was the worst education budget in 7 years.

The Bush budget fell \$7 billion short of the resources promised in the No Child Left Behind Act, and it cut funding for the legislation's initiatives by \$90 million. It also proposed less than half of the Federal commitment to special education. This \$11 billion shortfall negatively affects all of our public school students and shifts billions of dollars more to local property taxes.

At the same time, our communities are being forced to make decisions on defraying education budget shortfalls. Some schools are having to cut days off of their years and time off for the students. That is a crisis that should not

happen. Some school districts are considering shortening the school year in order to be able to live within their budget. Some schools no longer have money to hire substitute teachers for the remainder of the school year.

We have a responsibility to ensure that every individual has the opportunity to receive a high-quality education, from prekindergarten to elementary and secondary, to special education, to technical and higher education and beyond. Unfortunately, any gains that have been made in education achievement are currently in jeopardy due to the lack of funds at the local, State, and Federal levels.

There is nothing more important to our Nation's future, to our homeland security, and to our economy than ensuring we have a top-notch educational system that is the envy of the world.

I call on the Bush administration to make education funding and our children's future a higher national priority.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. President, I also want to briefly discuss the Bush administration's record on environmental issues.

As the ranking member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, I am sorry to report that the Bush administration continues to move us backward instead of forward in our efforts to protect our environment.

Weekly, usually on Friday afternoons, when the press is all asleep, or whatever, the Bush administration stages the below-radar attacks on public health and the environment. The administration ignores the abundant proof of imminent and long-term threats from pollution that endanger our lives and our ecosystems.

Today and every day since the administration took office, approximately 82 people will have died prematurely due to sickness and lung disease caused by fine particulate matter from powerplant pollution, which could and should be prevented.

Today and every day since the administration took office, up to 160 acres of vital wetlands have been converted for development or paved over. Instead of trying to slow the rate of wetlands destruction, the administration is seeking to ease existing wetlands protection.

Today and every day since the administration took office, the Nation adds around 16 million tons of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, each year contributing 25 percent of the world's total carbon. This raises the risk and threat of global warming.

Shortly after being sworn in, the President reversed his commitment to control greenhouse gases and has not looked back once. I am afraid the Bush administration's environmental policies have been more focused on protecting the special interests than protecting the air and water and land that we all share.

In closing, on the issues of education funding and the environment, I am

afraid our Nation has taken two steps back rather than one step forward. I can only hope that for the good of this Nation we can come together and once again move this Nation in the right direction.

How much time do I have?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senators have 10 minutes of their 20 minutes remaining.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I reserve the remainder of our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, Senator REID asked if I could extend this time until 3:30. I make that unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, in my capacity as a Senator from Alaska, objects.

CONCERNS OF CALIFORNIANS

Mrs. BOXER. All right. Madam President, I was here earlier to discuss the State of the Union as I saw it in California, and I reported that my constituents—Democrats, Republicans, Independents, young, and old—are very anxious about where we are. They are anxious when they see that we had a surplus that, in 2 short years, has turned into a raging deficit. They are anxious that we are on the brink of war without a lot of our allies coming along. They are anxious about their pension plans. Many are having to work longer and harder because of what happened with the stock market losing trillions of dollars in value. They are anxious about seeing a Nation that has lost its way on foreign policy and domestic policy. They have asked me to address some of these issues in every way that I can.

This afternoon, I am here to address the issue of the environment. I am very proud that Senator JEFFORDS is here on the floor, because he is fighting very hard for clean air. He has introduced legislation—the Clean Power Act—to take on the challenges we face with 2 billion tons of carbon dioxide, which causes global warming; 45 million tons of mercury, which poisons fish and endangers the health of children and pregnant women; 6 million tons of nitrogen oxide, which creates smog and causes asthma; and 13 million tons of sulfur dioxide, which causes acid rain, premature death, and lung disease. He has authored a very good bill to cure this problem.

The administration is not supporting his bill. They have written their own bill called "Clear Skies." Many I know are calling it "dirty skies." If we would just leave the Clean Air Act intact, as it is, we would clean up the air far faster than this administration rollback. That is just one more example of a series of rollbacks that we are seeing done by this administration.

Frankly, the people of California, from both political parties, who cherish their environment, love to see the ocean, the forests, the lakes, and the

ivers, and they cherish clean air. We have made so much progress and we want the Clean Water Act to stand intact. They are anxious, they are concerned, and they are puzzled as to why this administration is turning its back on Presidents—Republicans and Democrats, starting with Teddy Roosevelt who made the environment a non-partisan issue, and President Eisenhower who said the Alaskan Wildlife Refuge should be left intact, and President Nixon who created the Environmental Protection Agency, and President Clinton who did so many far-reaching things on the environment, protecting acres of land of roadless, beautiful areas, and used his executive pen to make sure that beautiful areas of our country are off limits to special interests because we believe when we got this land from God that it is our responsibility to preserve it and leave it in better condition than we found it.

We take this very seriously in California. This is not a partisan issue. I have people who voted for President Bush coming up to me and tugging at my sleeve: What is the matter with this administration?

Every Friday, late at night, when the press operations have shut down, they are making yet another rollback. The people in my State want me to fight against it, and I intend to do so.

Let's talk about this attack in specifics. One in every four Americans lives within 4 miles of a Superfund site. This chart has little dots that represent Superfund sites. Seventy million Americans live within 4 miles of a Superfund site. Ten million of those are children who are at risk of cancer and other health problems.

My State happens to have the second highest number of sites after New Jersey, but as we can see, there are sites in almost every State in the Union. These Superfund sites are dangerous. They include chemicals such as arsenic, benzene, DDT, and brain-damaging toxins like lead and mercury.

In 1980, Congress enacted the Superfund law. During the last 4 years of the Clinton administration, an average of 87 final cleanups occurred each year. Let's look at what is happening under George Bush. Half of those sites are being cleaned up. Worse than that, who is now paying? Under Bill Clinton and under Republican Presidents before him, including George Bush's father, we taxed the polluters. The polluters paid to clean up their mess.

When I was growing up, my mother always said: Clean up your mess. She did not want to hear me say: It is somebody else's responsibility, mom. It is not mine.

Wrong. If you make a mess, you clean it up. Simple. That goes for polluters. That is why we set up the Superfund. The polluter pays was the rule of the day.

Now what is happening? This President does not support the Superfund fee on the biggest polluters. We see where the taxpayers used to pay only